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Regional Forester's REPORT 1961

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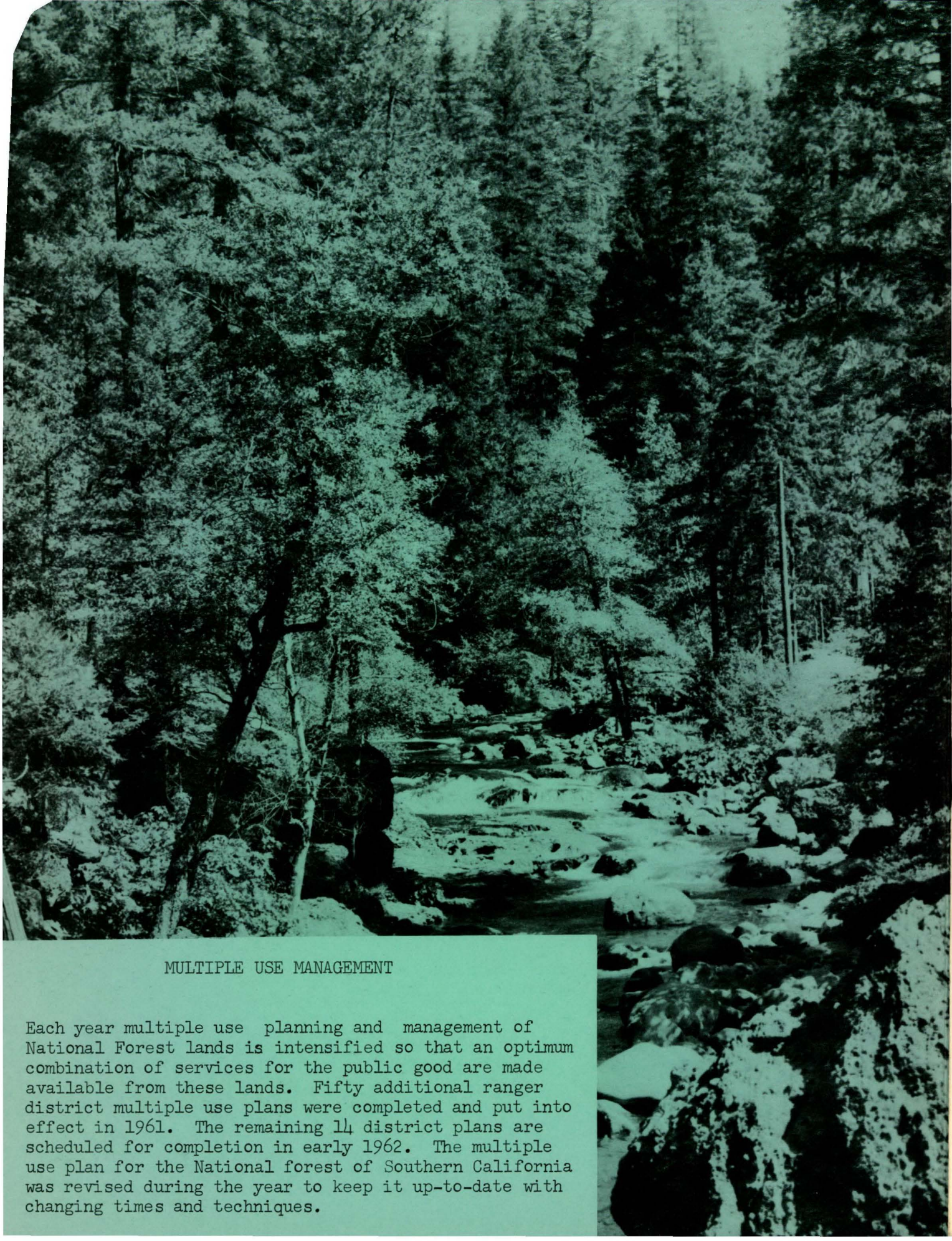
CALIFORNIA REGION

FOREST SERVICE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT

Each year multiple use planning and management of National Forest lands is intensified so that an optimum combination of services for the public good are made available from these lands. Fifty additional ranger district multiple use plans were completed and put into effect in 1961. The remaining 14 district plans are scheduled for completion in early 1962. The multiple use plan for the National forest of Southern California was revised during the year to keep it up-to-date with changing times and techniques.

1961 - the second year of the 60's is now behind us. This has been an exciting year for those of us charged with the management of California's National Forests. There have been many new projects under way; progress has been made.

In my judgment, the outstanding development was the President's presentation of "A Development Program For The National Forests" to Congress. This recognizes the increasing importance of the National Forests to the Nation's ever growing population. Its activation will ensure scientific management of their natural resources for public benefit and careful development of their outdoor spaces for public enjoyment.

We have seen a real breakthrough in getting better survival of planted trees on our reforestation projects. In many cases survival exceeded 90% which is outstanding compared to the record of other years. New methods of managing timber have been in effect now for several years. The results are beginning to show. The battle against the forest pest twins - insects and disease - goes on. Some promising breakthroughs appear to be just ahead.

New water developments present new opportunities. New National Forest recreation plans are taking shape.

The year was not without its problems. These and major accomplishments are discussed in more detail on the following pages. We believe that these all show the way to even greater accomplishment in the years to come.

Chas. A. Connaughton

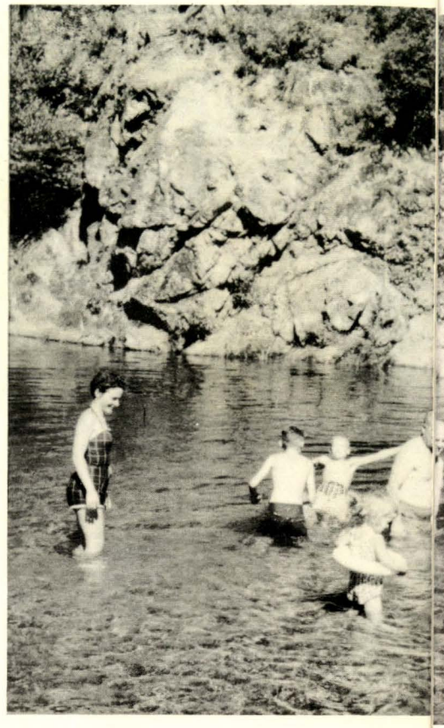
CHAS. A. CONNAUGHTON
Regional Forester

FOREST

480 family units were constructed in National Forest recreation areas under Operation Outdoors. This is an attempt to keep the quantity and quality of public facilities abreast of the growing demand for their use. It can proceed only as funds are made available for it.

A practical technique of charging for campground and picnic area use was developed. Ticket vending machines and coin-operated electric gates show promise of being able to do this job efficiently at a low cost. A separate report on this subject is available.

New National Forest recreation plans were started and should be completed during 1962.



RECREATION

California's National Forests continued to grow in popularity with the public. These forests were visited approximately 15,150,000 times by visitors from all over the Nation. While this was up 3% from 1960, the average length of stay dropped slightly. We believe this was caused by adverse weather and water conditions in Southern California.

Winter sports were enjoyed on 41 areas all or partly on National Forest land. Five new areas are being studied for possible major development.

TIMBER

NEW METHODS OF STARTING,
STANTLY BEING DEVELOPED,

The unit area control method of managing mixed-conifer timber stands was first put into effect about 3 years ago. This is proving to be an effective tool. It encourages growth of the younger groups of trees, faster regrowth of new trees after cutting and keeps the better timber sites producing trees rather than brush.

There has been a big breakthrough made in the fight to improve survival rates of planted trees. Credit for this goes to the nursery people for growing healthier planting stock and to foresters for devising ways to get rid of competing vegetation before the trees are planted. 16,200 acres of National Forest land were planted and 249 acres seeded in 1961. This needs to be expanded to 95,000 acres per year. A new nursery in Humboldt County will help by growing up to 15 million Douglas-fir trees yearly.

GROWING AND HARVESTING TIMBER CROPS ARE CONTRIED AND FINALLY ADOPTED AS STANDARD PRACTICE.

The battle against insects and diseases continues. These two pests combined to kill thousands of red fir trees in the Siskiyous and many white firs throughout the Region. They joined to threaten drought weakened ponderosa pines in the Sierra Nevada. Sanitation-salvage timber sales help control these outbreaks. New methods and chemicals are being tried in the quest for more effective pest control. The Forest Service participated in 90 pest control projects during the year.

The Region's allowable cut of timber was increased by 104 million board feet to a total of 1,578 million board feet per year through approval of 16 new timber management plans. This was made possible by planning for more intensive forestry practices and using new data on growth rates in managed timber stands.

1,362,051,000 board feet of National Forest timber were cut in 1961, a slight increase over 1960. Timber sold in new sales dropped to 969,000,000 board feet because of the poor lumber market, road access, and other factors. This is expected to approach allowable cut by June 30, 1962.

WATER

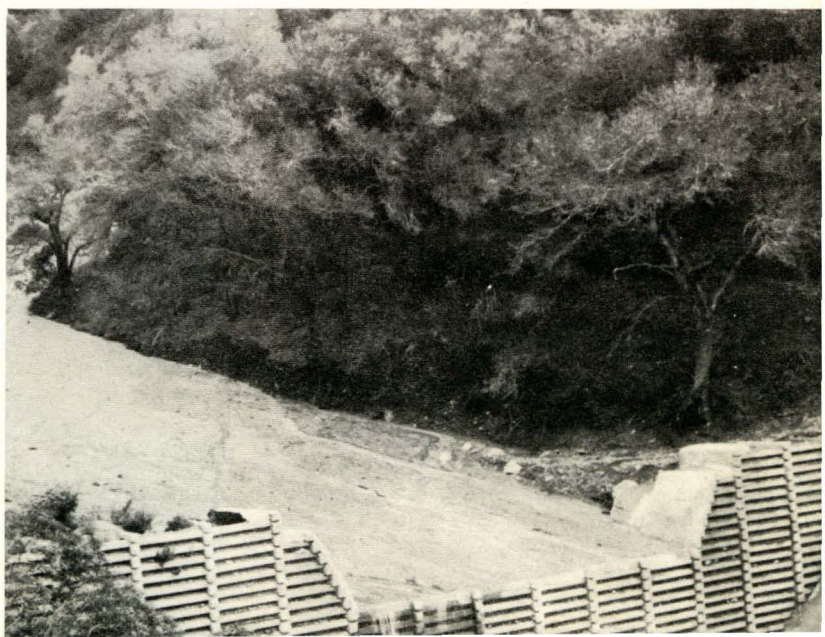
New water developments are affecting National Forest management. They offer opportunities in the form of new water sports areas, new campgrounds, new roads; and problems of access, communications, and resource management. We are making impact surveys ahead of each to take advantage of the opportunities and help solve the problems. These have been completed on the Yuba and Bear Rivers for Nevada County's proposed developments and for Yuba County's proposal on the Yuba River.

Surveys are under way for the State's Feather River developments, the Placer County's American River proposal and the State's Cedar Springs reservoir on San Bernardino National Forest. Many more of these are anticipated.

91 soil stabilization projects are being carried out to restore eroded and denuded areas. We completed contour trenching, gully plugging, and other soil stabilization work on timberlands burned in 1959 and 1960. A quarter-million pounds of grass seed was sown on 23,560 acres of burned watershed. Our experts are continuing studies to improve the effectiveness of this work.

Work plans have been completed for the Escondido and West San Gabriel Cooperative Watershed Management Projects. The West San Gabriel plan was prepared by Los Angeles County Flood District working with the State of California and U. S. Department of Agriculture. It plans a $5,000,000 program of flood prevention in this highly developed area. Construction should start in 1962.

Accelerated upstream work was made possible on the Los Angeles River and Santa Ynez Flood Prevention Projects by an increase in funds. We tried using helicopters to transport construction material to remote spots.



RANGE

3,258 acres of potential range land were plowed and seeded to suitable grass species. 3,450 acres of weed and brush infested grazing lands were sprayed with chemicals to rid them of these pests. These treatments improve watershed conditions, grow better crops of livestock feed and make fires easier to control.

To help control the range use by livestock 50 miles of new fence, 34 new spring developments and 20 miles of stock trails were built. Water spreading and rodent control projects improved conditions on 562 acres of key range. These projects all help to grow continuous crops of valuable forage grasses.

Range analysis field work was completed on 84 grazing allotments. 25 new range management plans were approved. This brings the total to 136 management plans and 549 field surveys completed on the 981 grazing allotments in the Region.

123,000 head of cattle
112,000 sheep with lambs
Grazing on National Forest lands

PRODUCED:

--16,000,000 pounds of beef worth $3,600,000

--250,000 pounds of wool and
--4,500,000 pounds of lamb together worth $880,000

FOREST FIRE

DESPITE

- A record number of lightning fires (2,121)
- Sub-normal rainfall
- 3 years of drought
- 2 extremely high fire danger periods

Burned National Forest acreage was cut to 61,000 acres from 191,000 in 1960 and the 5-year average of 109,000 acres. This was due in part to:

Stepped up fire prevention effort.

Hard hitting initial attack on small fires from air and ground.

Increased cooperation between fire agencies and industry.

Growing public awareness of our serious fire problem.

Man-caused fires decreased slightly in number from 872 in 1960 to 825 in 1961. This is 128 fires above the five-year average of 697. We still have a big prevention job to do.

Lumbering operation fires decreased from 88 in 1959 to 67 in 1960 and 55 in 1961. Intensified prevention work is paying off for the lumber industry.

Law enforcement action is used as a fire prevention tool and as a means of recovering damages to the Federal Government. In 1961 there were:

81 fire cases completed
405 convictions for other fire law violations
$67,408 recovered in damages

CONTROL

Pasadena Star-News Photo

Short term studies of new fire fighting equipment and methods are under way by the Regional Office Division of Fire Control. Some of the more interesting of these involve viscous water, new chemicals, guided missiles.

Six men lost their lives on National Forest fire work. This brings home to us the fact that fire fighting is a tough, dangerous job. Continuous fire training is under way; well trained, highly efficient crews fight fire more effectively and safely.

The Region's fire plan was completed. It shows a need for larger striking forces and more land treatment work on the National Forests. These are needed to cut down numbers of fires and hold burned acreage to acceptable minimums. A test program on the Stanislaus National Forest will try out new and different ways of reducing fuel concentrations in high fire hazard areas.

BRUSHLAND MANAGEMENT

More intensive management of brush species is needed on the watersheds of Southern California and the potential range and timber lands of Northern California.

In 1961, 9,800 acres of chaparral were converted to more useful vegetation. This helps keep wild fires small and improves watershed conditions and wildlife habitat.

Treatment usually consists of:

- Crushing the brush.
- Burning the crushed brush.
- Seeding perennial grasses.
- Spraying to control brush sprouts and seedlings.
- Managing use to hold gains.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife habitat work is on the increase as a result of increased Congressional appropriations and cooperative programs with the California Department of Fish and Game and several counties.

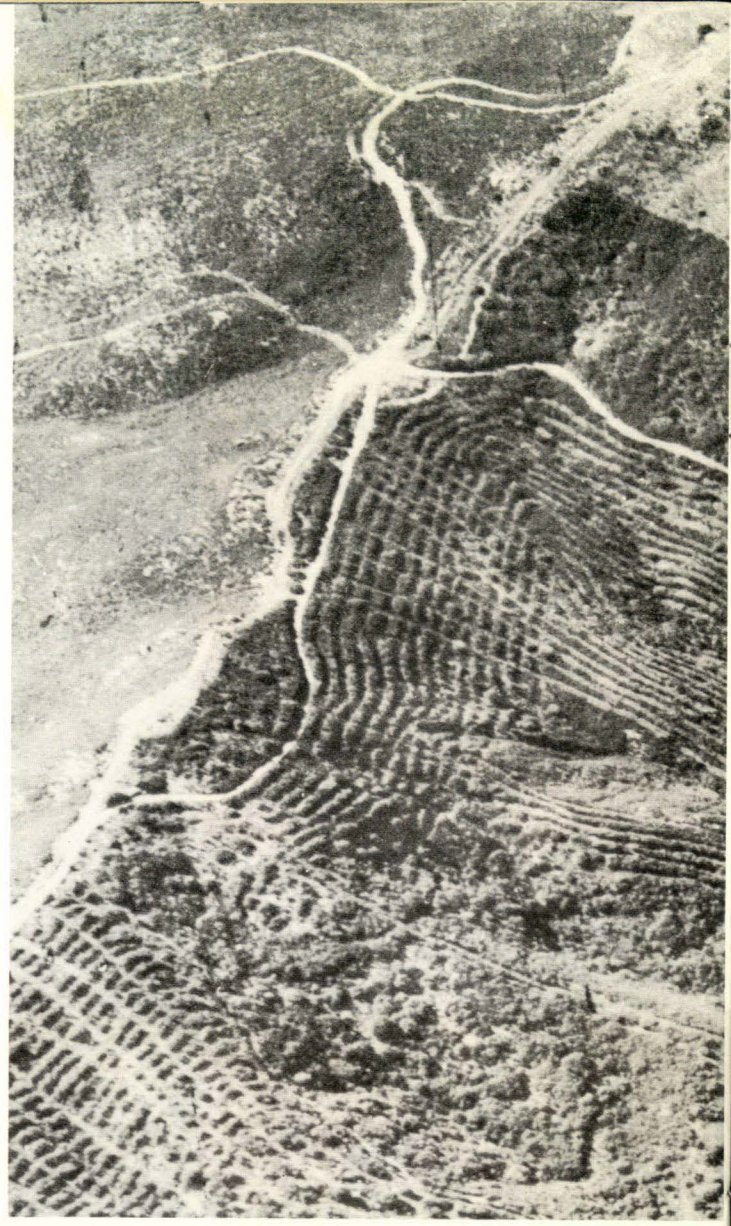
ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1500 acres of browseways cleared to create openings and sprouts

200 acres seeded to wildlife feed

43 big game management units surveyed and management plans started

117 water projects completed including seeps and catchworks to supply drinking water; stream and lake developments to improve habitat for fish



COOPERATIVE FORESTRY

We work with California and Hawaii to help them achieve better fire protection and forestry on State and private lands. The Forest Service provides technical and financial assistance. The States carry out the cooperative fire control, tree planting, forest management and agricultural conservation work.

In 1961:

C A L I F O R N I A — Distributed 2,191,000 tree seedlings to forest land owners.

Provided forest management assistance to 1,832 owners of 285,000 forested acres.

Furnished fire protection to 19,000,000 acres of forest and watershed lands.

H A W A I I — Distributed 1,159,000 tree seedlings to forest land owners.

Protected 1,152,000 acres from fire.

Mr. John Milodragovich, Forest Supervisor of the Nezperce National Forest was assigned to help Hawaii develop "A MULTIPLE USE PROGRAM" for its State Forests. Here he and Mr. E. H. Cook, Director of Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources, explain the new program to a television audience.

NATIONAL FOREST

The big job of consolidating land ownership, acquiring road rights-of-way and making surface rights determinations continued. These are aimed at improving land management and facilitating public use of National Forest lands.

14 land exchanges were completed

24 more land exchange cases are being processed toward completion

1220 acres inside Wild and Wilderness Areas are being acquired

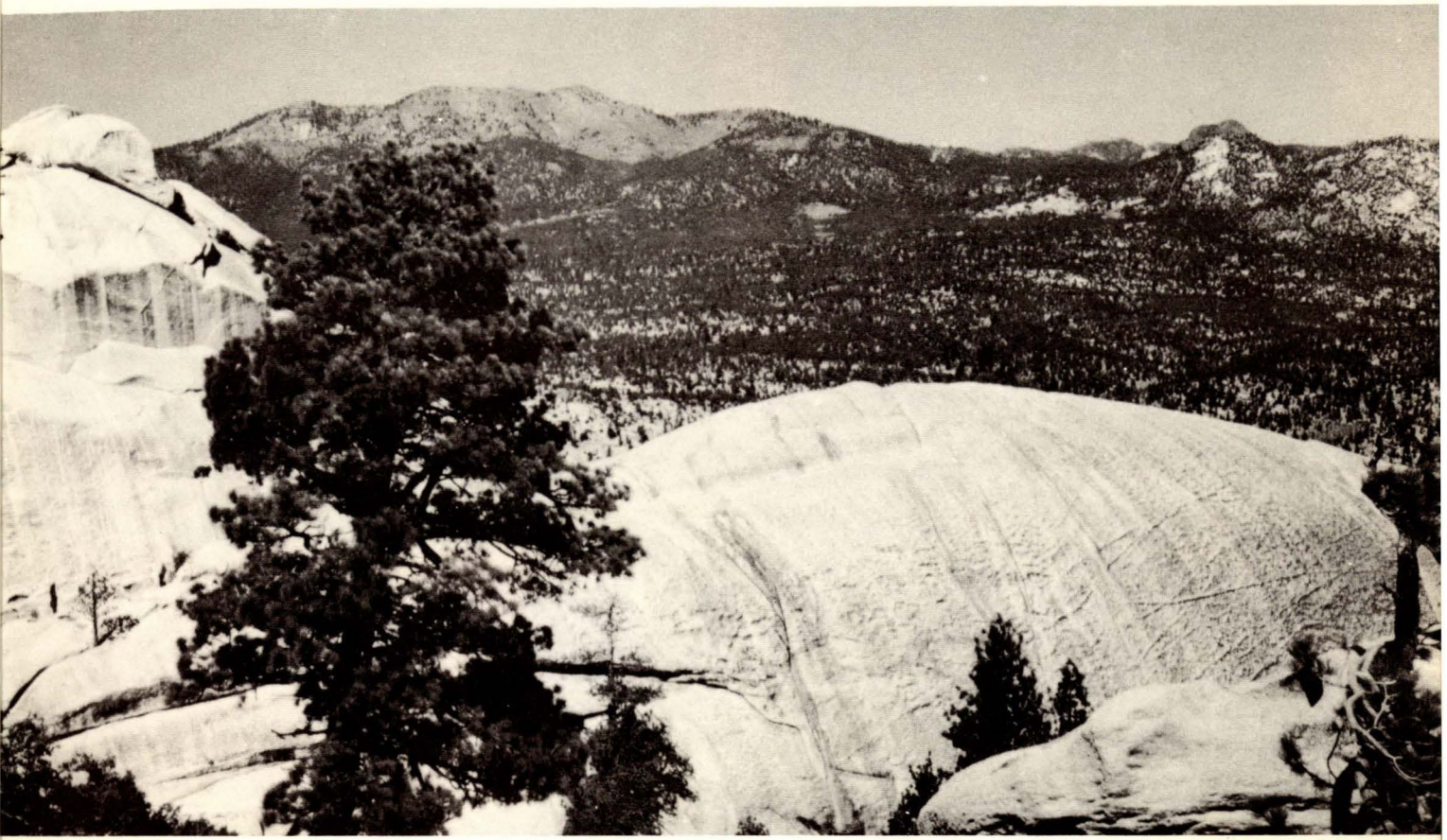
145 miles of road rights-of-way were obtained

4,000,000 acres of surface rights determination work was completed bringing this job to the half-way mark.

Forest community needs for expansion are being taken care of through exchange of adjacent National Forest lands for more remote private timbered lands. Examples of this can be found in the adjustments going on at the south end of Lake Tahoe.

Negotiations are continuing for consolidation of ownership in the Trinity Alps Primitive Area. Consolidation of Federal ownership and boundary adjustment is needed to effectively protect its wilderness character.

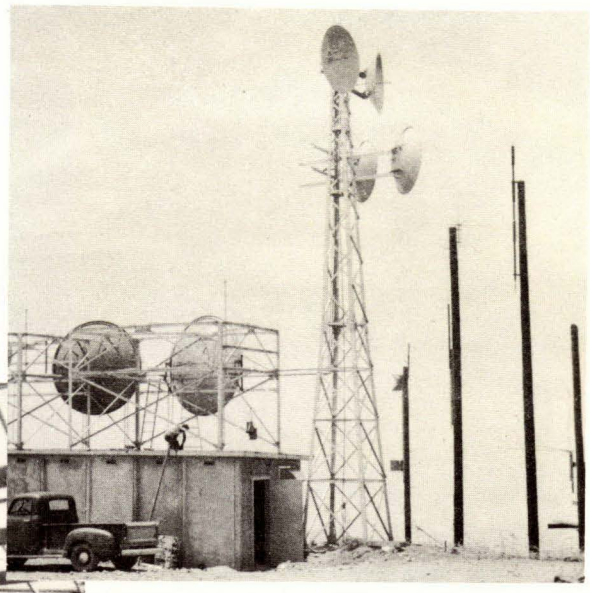
LANDS



Public notice was given of our proposal for a 62,500 acre Dome Land Wild Area on the Kern Plateau of the Sequoia National Forest. We expect to announce proposals for more new wilderness-type areas and reclassification of primitive areas in 1962.

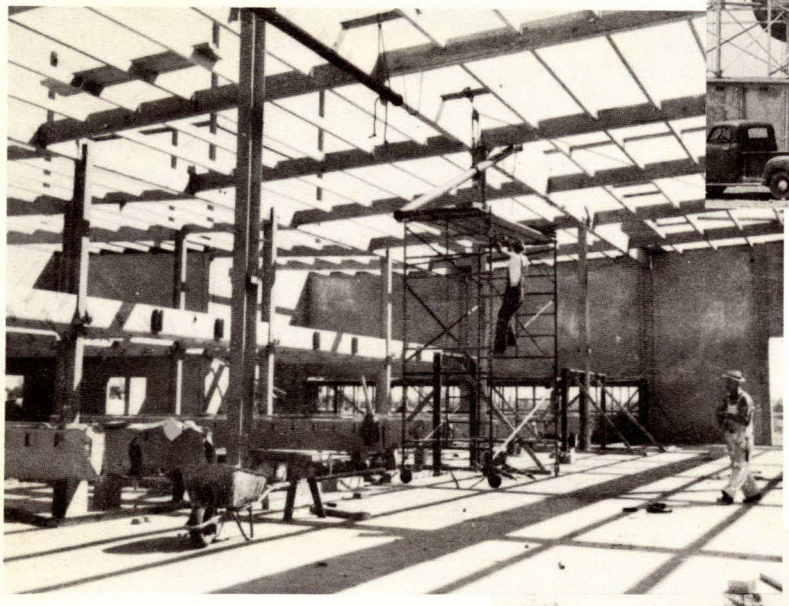
The Caribou Primitive Area on the Lassen National Forest was reclassified as a Wild Area and the boundary adjusted; the King Cavern Geological Area was established.

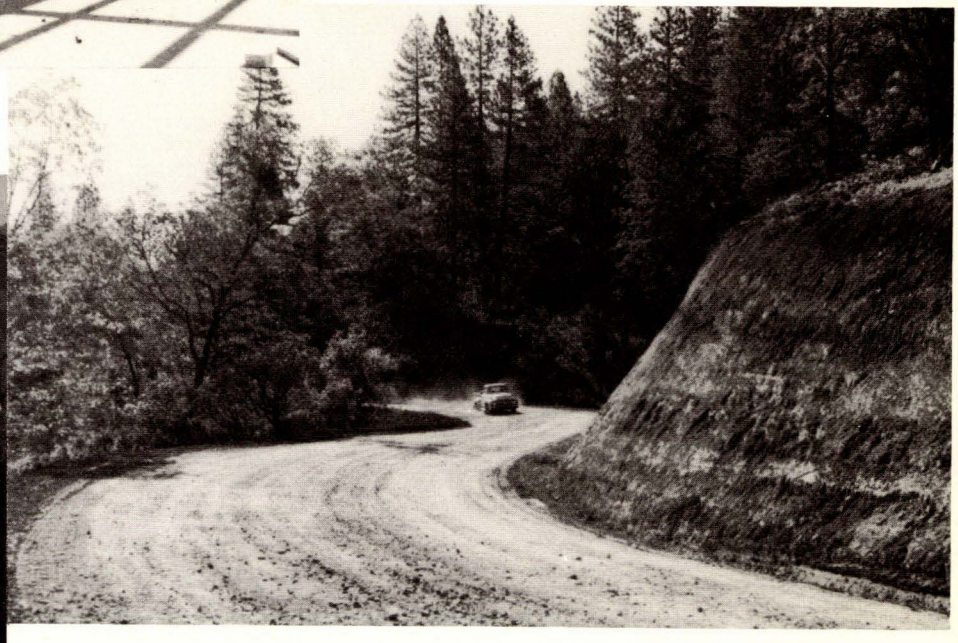
SUPPORTING SERVICES



502 RADIO UNITS INSTALLED

27 BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED



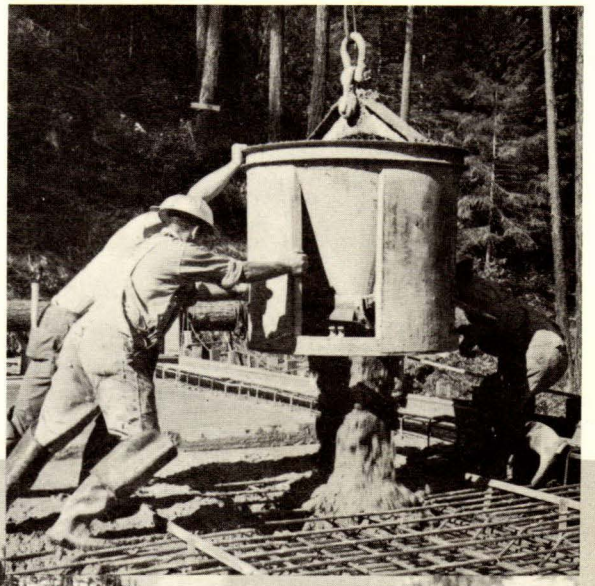


315 MILES OF FOREST ROADS BUILT
by Forest Service and timber purchasers.

$10,513,668 COLLECTED

5 NEW BUILDINGS RENTED
for Forest Supervisors' Headquarters.

23 BRIDGES BUILT



136 WATER RIGHTS OBTAINED
for resource development.

---ROADS TO BUILD--buildings and bridges to design--maps to make--money to collect--the public to inform--people to train--audits to make-- radios to install--people to pay!

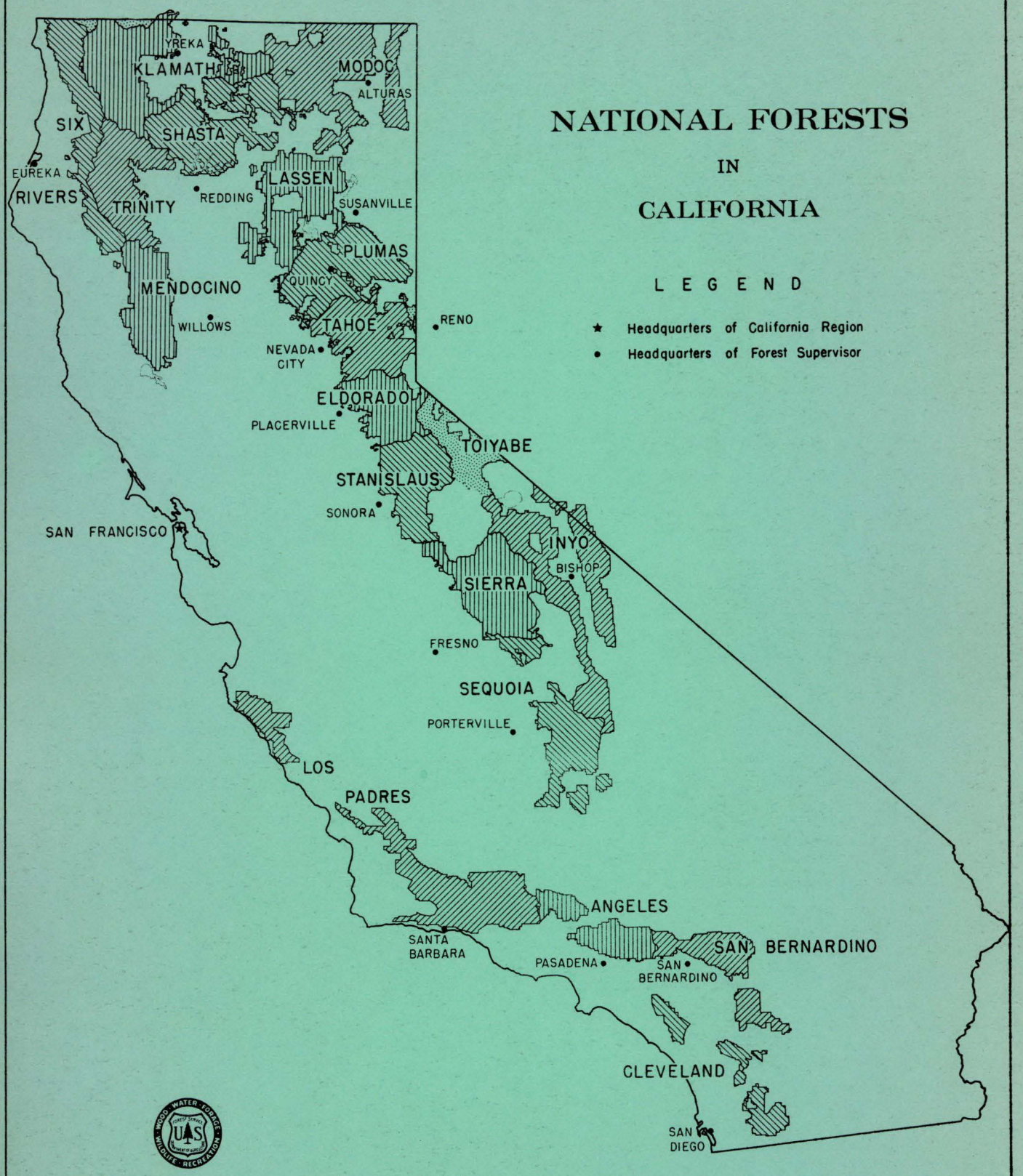
The people who do these jobs must be highly skilled in engineering, business management, work planning, personnel management and public information work. They all help manage California's 19 million acres of National Forest land and resources.

We inaugurated a Visitor's Information Program on a pilot basis this year. The program is under way in the South Lake Tahoe area of the Eldorado National Forest and in the Mammoth Lakes area of the Inyo National Forest.

It is designed to help the National Forest visitor gain a better understanding and appreciation of the forest area he is visiting. We expect the program to expand to other Forests in the future.

Smokey Bear still works hard at preventing forest fires.

Here Regional Forester Connaughton presents an award to retired Forest Supervisor William V. Mendenhall for his part in starting the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Campaign 25 years ago. Angeles Forest Supervisor Sim Jarvi and Smokey look on.


NATIONAL FORESTS
IN
CALIFORNIA
LEGEND
★ Headquarters of California Region
• Headquarters of Forest Supervisor
YREKA
KLAMATH
MODOC
ALTURAS
SIX
SHASTA
EUREKA
RIVERS
TRINITY
REDDING
LASSEN
SUSANVILLE
PLUMAS
QUINCY
MENDOCINO
WILLOWS
TAHOE
RENO
NEVADA CITY
ELDORADO
PLACERVILLE
TOIYABE
STANISLAUS
SONORA
SAN FRANCISCO
INYO
BISHOP
SIERRA
FRESNO
SEQUOIA
PORTERVILLE
LOS PADRES
ANGELES
SANTA BARBARA
PASADENA
SAN BERNARDINO
SAN BERNARDINO
CLEVELAND
SAN DIEGO
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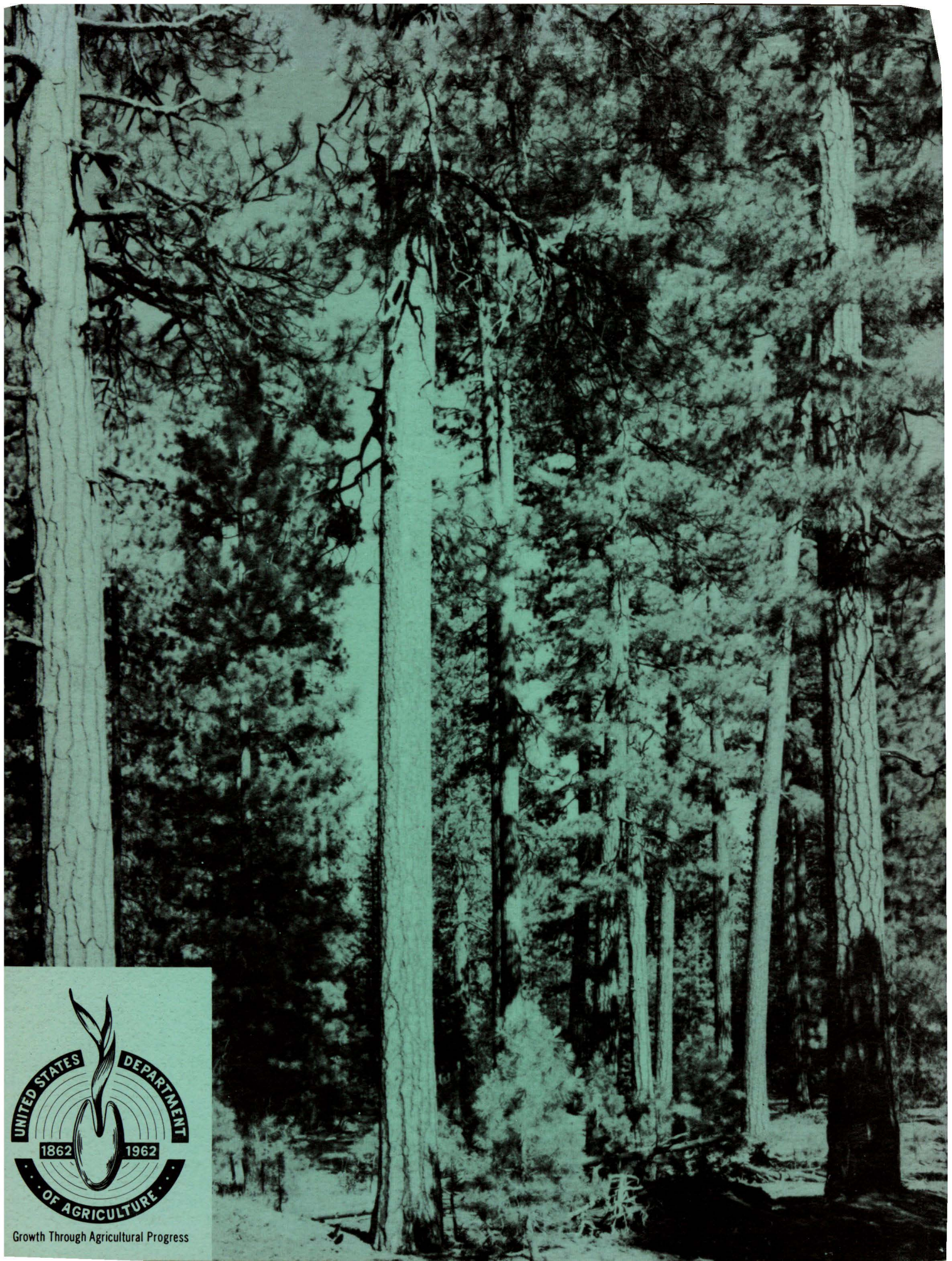
AGRICULTURE—FOREST SERVICE—SAN FRANCISCO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1862 1962
OF AGRICULTURE
Growth Through Agricultural Progress